Bad Risk is Bad. Good Risk is Good

In other words we are trying to sanitise risk and responsibility to the point where the individual is actively discouraged from legitimate risk taking under the guise that all risk taking is bad. Speeding in a car is a bad risk. It should be discouraged and there should be harsh penalties for it. Kids who drive like hoon on the streets are not risk takers because they do not even perceive the risk to themselves or others. They are just hedonists. Racing car drivers however are risk takers. It is a controlled industry, but in the end when you get into that car and the flag goes down, you know death is a possibility.

Beck Wethers is a mountaineer whose aim was to climb to the top of Mount Everest. He looked into the abyss and decided he could not do it alone. So he hired a guide and started the climb and made it to the top. The problem was, he was so focussed on the top, he neglected to prepare himself for the trip back down. Instead he sat on top of the mountain completely exhausted and said to his guide; ‘just leave me here. I have reached my goal. I am prepared to die.’

After many attempts to carry him and convince him to come down, the guide was separated from Beck and forced to leave him on the slope to die. In a freak of survival, Beck became the only person in history to live through a night on Everest and re-gain the strength to walk down it the next day. Years later he released a book called ‘Left for Dead’ which implied his guide should have carried some of the responsibility for leaving him on the mountain. To varying degrees this philosophy has infiltrated society today to the point where teenagers are almost totally non responsible for their risk taking behaviour.

This is a bad thing for society and education. Today there are very few institutions prepared to take educational risks. They are afraid of the repercussions from a legal, political and social system which seems to have forgotten Ben Franklin discovered electricity by flying a metal key on a kite in an electric storm and The Wright Brothers rode a winged bicycle over a cliff and learned how to fly... Risk taking which doesn’t hurt others is essential to learning. Otherwise there would be a 1665 newspaper somewhere with a headline...

**Scientist Sues Orchard Owner When Apple Falls On His Head!**

And we would be walking around with no idea why we can’t fly! Now imagine where that would have left Ben Franklin and the Wright Brothers.
Real life learning

Each term we focus on a particular theme. This theme acts as an anchor for our personal development, camp and classroom curriculum. The focus for surf camp this year was linked to our Term 1 theme: Nature and God.

It seems the more you learn about life and the way it works, the more you begin to see that just about everything that happens is inextricably linked to everything else that happens. The famous philosopher Aristotle said that by pulling the wing off a butterfly on one side of the world I am likely to cause an earth quake on the other.

And just as it is true of the world, it is true of the universe. While the human brain has no chance of absorbing the enormity of universal patterns, even those who believe in chaos theory are destined to acknowledge that indeed even the absence of a pattern is a pattern of sorts. The patterns we adopt in life, often look like one thing on the surface but represent something deeper inside.

This raises questions about the nature of God, the universe and the individual’s connection to God. What better place to explore this theme than amidst the magnificent, ancient and ever changing coastline of the Great Ocean Road? This landscape offers a number of opportunities for the contemplation of God and our individual understanding of God.

Surf Camp

On this year’s surf camp we saw more feet standing up on boards than ever before...With our boys (Marty, Dean, Josef, Stuart and Liam) tearing up Apollo Bay’s sweetest swell.

Competition ran high this year at the Rod Laver’s Hill Table Tennis Arena...We have never seen so much tension and energy (Molly vs Stuart and Dean vs Josef).

Other highlights included fishing, with some of us realising new talents (Amelia) and others accepting their expertise may be in other areas. Whilst some of us (Rachel) managed to catch a fish without baiting a hook or touching anything “fishy smelling”.

No trip to the Great Ocean Road is complete without a visit to the Twelve Apostles. Some of our students got some beautiful happy snaps (Amelia, Molly and Maddie) while a few others found their phones more interesting and one found more excitement in her book (Catherine).

The trip offered students and staff an opportunity to reconnect and bond with each after a long holiday break...and just like any other happy family after a week away together I think we were all happy to get home and have the weekend apart.

If you would like to see more of what we got up to...check out the website. You can view the photos and our first ever Surf Camp Video.

www.ce.edu.au
ILP Meetings

ILP’s are an important part of goal setting. They are used to assist and measure student’s academic, social, emotional progress and personal development. It is our aim that students, staff and parents work together to set goals around ILP’s.

We are now in the process of completing student Individual Learning Plans. Parents and students will need to complete an ILP form before they attend the meetings. If you have not made a time for this meeting can you please contact Hannah. hannah@ce.edu.au

Valley Camp

Valley camp will run from April 01 to April 03. Information on activities, itinerary and payment will be forward to you shortly. Valley camp is held at the Otway retreat and is another of our compulsory camps.

DECV

Congratulations to all the students who have risen to the challenge of DECV and are submitting in a regular and consistent manner. Feedback from DECV has indicated we have some of the best submitters so far this year! VCE students are at the end of week 4. Year 8-10 students have completed their first week of Maths and English submissions. Homework sessions are offered for students who are falling behind. The centre is open for tutoring each day until 6:00 pm and 9:00pm on selected evenings.

If you have any questions in regards to your child’s progress in relation to DECV please contact Kate.

kate@ce.edu.au
Birthdays

This month we celebrated Rachel Merrigan’s 17th Birthday with a decadent chocolate cake!

Important Dates

Term 1
- Monday 24th Feb - Fri 14th March
- Monday 10th March
- Tues 1st April – Thurs 3rd April
- Thursday 3rd April
- Friday 18th April
- Monday 21st April
- Tuesday 22nd April

- ILP Meetings
- Labour Day
- Valley Camp
- Term 1 Concludes
- Good Friday
- Easter Monday
- Term 2 Commences

Dear parents and students,

We are very proud of Liam, who has recently obtained his P plates. This opens up a new world of freedom. However as we all know, with freedom comes responsibility. When that responsibility is the lives of your friends and of other young people, it is not something to be taken lightly.

Please be aware of the following policy in regards to student drivers:

Between the hours of 9:30am and 3:00pm students with their license may not drive other students. Between the hours of 9:30am and 3:00pm students may not get in the car with a JCS student as the driver.

Please feel free to contact the school if you have any further questions regarding this matter.
We love fishing!!!

...except it was cuter when it was in the water